

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION**

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**CDBG
Community Development Block Grant Program****MANAGEMENT MEMORANDUM
Memorandum Number 05-13****TO: Eligible Jurisdictions and Interested Parties****DATE: October 21, 2005****SUBJECT: Disaster Recovery Initiative (DRI) 2005 Application Training Questions and Answers****Purpose of this Memo:**

This memorandum is to provide answers to the questions posed in the workshops which could not be answered at the training sites. Below are questions asked at the DRI workshops and the corresponding answers.

Eligible Planning Activities:

- Q. Can planning activities include study of mitigation measures to prevent future disasters event of the same type?
- A. Planning activities must pay for studies of the disaster event itself and how to repair the destruction caused by the event. It may be that the study of the disaster repairs includes some analysis of ways to minimize damage from future events. Call your CDBG program representative if you have questions.

Building Replacement Housing Outside Disaster Area:

- Q. Can new homes be built outside the disaster area to replace units destroyed?
- A. Yes, the DRI regulations allow for using CDBG funds for new construction. If the replacement units need to be placed outside the disaster area because of costs of elevating units above flood level or for local planning restrictions (replacing units in a floodplain verses locating the units outside the floodplain) then it is allowable.

Definition of a Farm:

- Q. Does HCD consider a farm a business such that it can be assisted with DRI funding?
- A. Yes, a farm is considered a business by HCD as long as it is private for profit entity.

Eligible Improvements for Replacing Homes:

- Q. Can a grantee pay for installation of water and sewer services or road widening or lot consolidation so that homes destroyed in the disaster can be replaced?
- A. Yes, if the current codes and standards for replacement of existing homes require larger lot size, such that lots must be combined so units can be rebuilt or if public water and sewer systems must be installed for home to be rebuilt or if existing roads must be widened to meet current standards to enable local residents to rebuild, then these are all eligible DRI costs. These types of activities are not seen as mitigation of the disaster but rather necessary because of local code requirements which must be complied with in order to fix damages caused by the disaster.

For Further Information:

Contact the CDBG Administrative Assistant at (916) 552-9398 or Patrick Talbott at (916) 552-9361 if there is need for further clarification of these issues or if applicants have other questions. State staff will be available via a conference call to review application materials and give technical assistance as needed.